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LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 14 March 1996 from the "Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations", addressed to you (S/1996/189).

The press release annexed to that letter does not reflect accurately the substance of the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and contains some wording and conclusions that are not acceptable to the Croatian Government. In particular, my Government should like to emphasize that the parties were not engaged in any discussions pertaining to an exit to the sea for the Bosnian Serb entity. The press release was prepared by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and inadvertently circulated to the media in Zagreb prior to the bilateral meeting on 11 March 1996, according to the explanation provided to the Croatian delegation by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The delegation of the Republic of Croatia declined discussions on the said press release. Therefore, the press release should not be viewed as a joint document. Moreover, since the said meeting ended with a joint press conference by the two Foreign Ministers, my Government can only conclude that this press release was circulated to the members of the Security Council in error.

My Government considers the transcript of the joint press conference, and the signed "Minutes" between the two Governments as the only relevant documents of the Zagreb bilateral meeting.

I should like to request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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